

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, energy efficiency programs have been proven to be the cheapest available energy resource -- they can be deployed faster and more flexibly than competing traditional generation resources, and with much shorter time commitments; and

WHEREAS, energy efficiency strategies are lower in cost and pose less financial risk compared to investment in traditional generation resources; and

WHEREAS, energy efficiency programs have the potential to create local jobs and stimulate the local economy while reducing bills for all customer classes; and

WHEREAS, Council resolutions dating back to 1994 have identified energy efficiency as the first priority for meeting new load growth; and

WHEREAS, the Council-adopted Resource Generation and Climate Protection Plan to 2020 (the Generation Plan) set a goal to reduce peak demand by at least 800 megawatts (MW) between 2007 and 2020 and also recommended analyzing the potential to set a goal to reduce peak demand by at least 1,000 MW; and

WHEREAS, energy efficiency aids in the conservation of water, a resource which is vital to a sustainable future; and

WHEREAS, an ambitious energy efficiency strategy could reduce Austin Energy's reliance on the Fayette Power Plant; and

WHEREAS, the “Austin DSM Market Potential Assessment” suggests that funding allocated for AE’s energy efficiency programs must increase to meet the current goal of 800 MW of demand reduction by 2020 and would have to increase substantially to meet a more ambitious goal; and

WHEREAS, external funding opportunities could further support energy efficiency programs to increase the amount of demand reduction by 2020; and energy efficiency programs offer the potential to reduce energy use and costs for all classes of customers; and

WHEREAS, several components of the Generation Plan have not been fully realized, including establishing “a system for the examination and vetting of new energy efficiency ideas and programs submitted by industry experts”; enhancing existing channels and establishing “new channels for obtaining and evaluating customer and stakeholder proposals for new or modified energy efficiency programs”; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The Resource Management Commission shall prepare a work plan for completing the tasks outlined below in addition to other objectives the Commission deems necessary, and present this plan via memorandum to the City Council by November 1, 2012.

1. Make recommendations for new or modified energy efficiency strategies relevant to each of Austin Energy's customer classes;

2. Review successful programs and best practices from around the nation, building on the recent findings from the Austin Energy DSM Market Potential Assessment Report;
3. Conduct an comprehensive analysis of all potential financing mechanisms, including – but not limited to -- those available under Texas House Bill 1937, of the 81st Texas Legislature or any legislation approved in the 83rd Texas Legislature, federal and state incentives, and innovative mechanisms such as on-bill financing.
4. Review Austin’s Current and Planned Building Energy Codes and its Greenbuilding Program for opportunities that would improve energy efficiency and compliance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The city manager is directed to provide the necessary information and support to the Resource Management Commission and that the commission: Present recommendations for an expanded, comprehensive Energy Efficiency Plan that addresses:

- Cost-effective energy efficiency strategies and the timeframe under which these resources could be deployed; and
- Potential direct and indirect economic benefits from implementing an ambitious energy efficiency strategy, such as increases in local jobs and training opportunities and enhanced compliance with stricter environmental standards; and
- Metrics and indicator systems necessary to monitor progress and design mid-course corrections; and

- Methods for ensuring that all cost-effective energy efficiency opportunities have been exhausted before making new investments in traditional fossil fuel-based generation resources.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED:

The Resource Management Commission shall identify ways to ensure that a diverse cross section of stakeholders, including community members and representatives of the energy efficiency industry and environmental community to be included in the plan development process and that community feedback on the plan be meaningfully incorporated.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED:

The Resource Management Commission shall make periodic briefings to the Electric Utility Commission.

ADOPTED _____, 2012

ATTEST: _____

Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk